



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission
380 Fenwick Road
Building 96

Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

Steven G. Bowman
Commissioner

November 12, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Members of the Public
FROM: Virginia Marine Resources Commission Staff
RE: Results from Public Recreational Cobia Survey

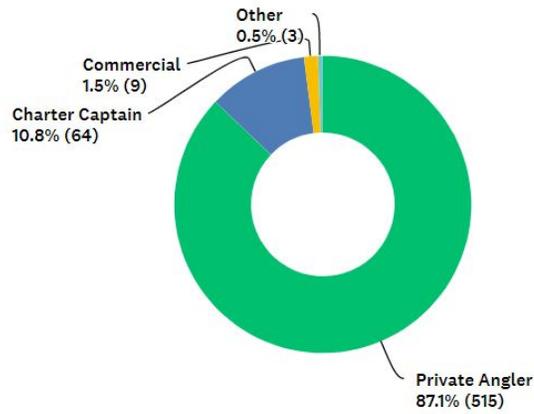
The attached tables and figures are the results from the SurveyMonkey survey that was made available to the public from October 19 to October 30, 2020. The purpose of the survey was to solicit public input about the proposed management measures for the 2021-2023 recreational cobia seasons. There were 591 respondents to the survey.

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

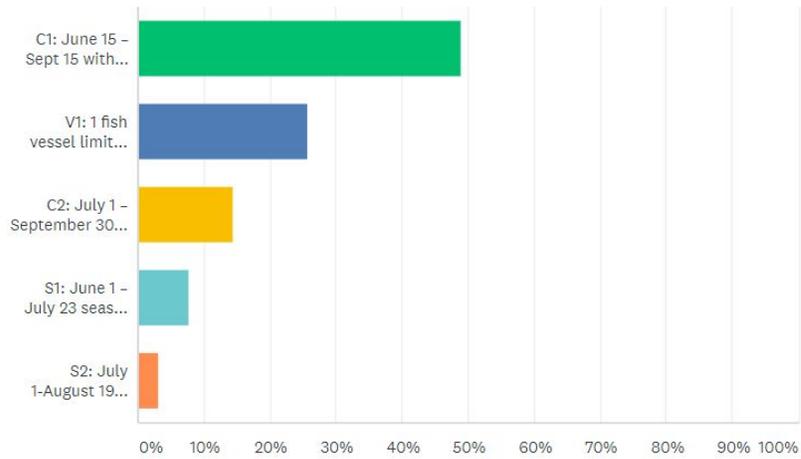
Telephone (757) 247-2200 (757) 247-2292 V/TDD Information and Emergency Hotline 1-800-541-4646 V/TDD

Question 1: In which sector do you fish for cobia?



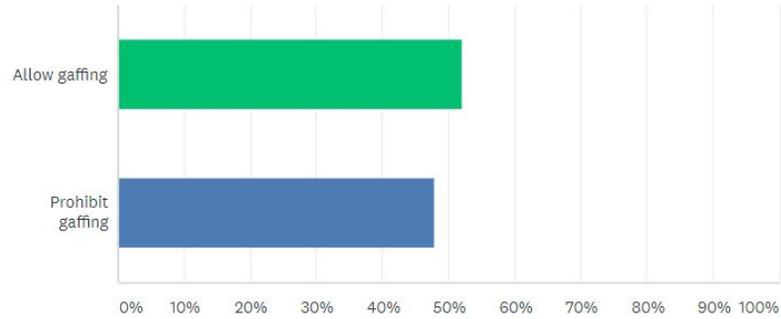
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Private Angler	87.1% 515
▼ Charter Captain	10.8% 64
▼ Commercial	1.5% 9
▼ Other	0.5% 3
TOTAL	591

Question 2: Which of these options do you prefer to achieve the required minimum reduction in harvest of 42%?



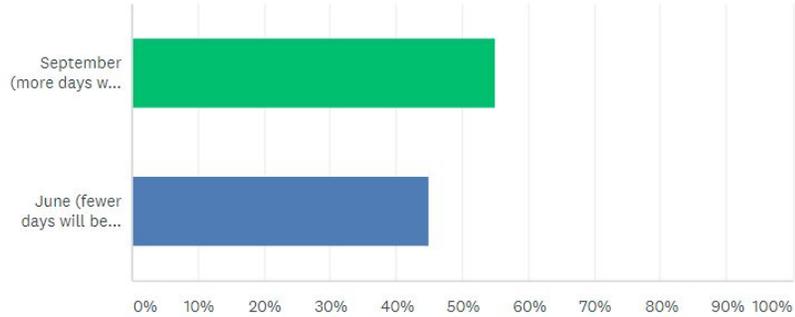
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ C1: June 15 – Sept 15 with a 2 fish vessel limit (42% reduction)	48.89%	287
▼ V1: 1 fish vessel limit (53% reduction, season unchanged)	25.72%	151
▼ C2: July 1 – September 30 with a 2 fish vessel limit (52% reduction)	14.48%	85
▼ S1: June 1 – July 23 season (47% reduction, bag and vessel limit unchanged)	7.67%	45
▼ S2: July 1-August 19 season (45% reduction, bag and vessel limit unchanged)	3.24%	19
TOTAL		587

Question 3: In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of undersized cobia harvested. This is not directly attributable to gaffing, however gaffing could potentially be a factor. What gaffing option do you prefer?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Allow gaffing	52.04% 306
▼ Prohibit gaffing	47.96% 282
TOTAL	588

Question 4: Virginia may receive a small additional amount of recreational cobia harvest. If Virginia is able to add additional days from the final action of Addendum I, at what end of the season would you rather those days be added?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ September (more days will be available due to less fishing pressure)	55.03%	323
▼ June (fewer days will be available due to more fishing pressure)	44.97%	264
TOTAL		587